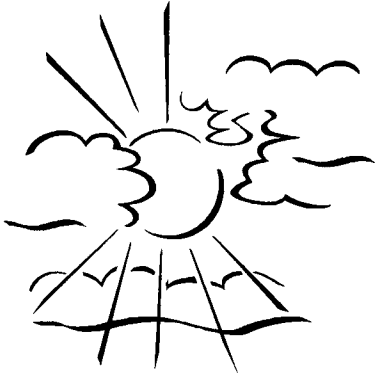


***Department  
of  
Human  
Services***

**Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394**



**\*Important story at this spot**

# **Articles in Today's Clips**

## **Thursday, August 11, 2005**

**(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
*Health Care	2-4
Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	5-11
Juvenile Justice	12
Food Assistance	13-14
Foster Care	15
Domestic Violence	16
Communities in Schools	17-18
Unemployment	19
Minimum Wage	20
Charities	21

# Medicaid patients, beware

## Changes may mean fewer benefits next year

*August 11, 2005*

BY LARRY WHEELER  
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON -- Low-income Americans who rely on the government-run Medicaid program for health care could face benefit cuts and higher out-of-pocket expenses next year.

The \$305-billion Medicaid program, jointly funded by federal and state governments, is under intense scrutiny from the Bush administration and the nation's governors, who want to slow an explosion in enrollment and costs.

Now the nation's largest health insurance program, Medicaid pays the medical bills and prescription drug costs for 52 million low-income children, parents, expectant mothers, severely disabled people and senior citizens in nursing homes.

In January, Medicaid will undergo an extraordinary transition as about 6.1 million elderly and disabled poor people are transferred to new, local Medicare prescription drug plans.

After the transfer, states will be required to make monthly payments to the federal Medicare program to help pay the prescription drug bills of individuals no longer on state Medicaid rolls. States say those monthly payments will cost more than they spend now on Medicaid prescription drug costs.

Those changes are the result of the Medicare Modernization Act, which Congress passed in 2003. The law created a prescription drug benefit for elderly people.

To help pay for the new benefit, federal lawmakers determined states should contribute about 25% of the cost.

Those monthly payments could range from \$60 million for a state like California to support nearly 1 million poor Medicare patients to \$430,000 for Wyoming, which has 6,000 such patients. California's total Medicaid enrollment is 8.5 million people compared with Wyoming's 57,900.

Consumer advocates warn the generous new Medicare benefit will end up hurting those left behind in the state-run Medicaid programs.

"We're very concerned," said Kathleen Stoll, health policy director for Families USA, a health policy organization that advocates more generous government assistance for needy Americans.

"The only way states can control the money being" paid to Medicare "is to reduce their Medicaid eligibility."

That's what's happening in Ohio, said Barbara Edwards, the state's Medicaid director.

"Because Ohio has to come up with an additional \$56 million to pay Medicare, I'm having to cut Medicaid," she said.

Planned cuts include eliminating health insurance for 25,000 working poor parents and ending dental coverage for about 800,000 people, Edwards said.

The looming deadline has increased pressure on a White House task force and governors to find ways to slow Medicaid spending.

Next month, President George W. Bush's Medicaid Advisory Commission is expected to make recommendations that would reduce planned spending by \$10 billion.

*Detroit News Editorial*

*Thursday, August 11, 2005*

## Michigan must remedy soaring Medicaid costs

Plan reduces spending by creating incentives for healthier patient habits

By State Sen. Tom George

Rising Medicaid costs are busting Michigan's budget. We are shorting our schools, universities, state police, libraries, parks, local governments and environment to feed the growth of Medicaid, a program that provides health care to the poor and disabled.

During the past four years, state appropriations to public universities have fallen 11 percent and revenue sharing to local governments has been cut 28 percent, while Medicaid appropriations have risen 30 percent.

Medicaid needs reform to lower spending and make people healthier. A growing body of evidence suggests unhealthy behavior is more likely to be altered in response to economic incentives than educational efforts. The state should use its public health budget to create incentives for healthy behavior among Medicaid patients rather than spend it on feel-good educational programs.

In recent testimony before Congress on behalf of the National Governor's Association, Gov. Mark Warner, D-Va., said states should be given "broad discretion to establish enforceable premiums, deductibles or co-pays."

The Michigan Senate's version of the coming year's Medicaid budget incorporates this concept by instituting a system of nominal co-pays and monthly premiums for Medicaid patients in a way that rewards healthy behavior. The Senate also would require Medicaid patients to sign a personal responsibility contract similar to the one now required of welfare recipients.

These reforms are needed to fix a health care problem that is not unique to Michigan. Gov. Phil Bredesen, D-Tenn., recently called Medicaid a "crisis that's forcing states to choose between quality health care on one hand and a quality education for our children on the other."

There is no end in sight to Medicaid's demands. In her budget for the coming fiscal year, Gov. Jennifer Granholm proposed increasing Medicaid's precious general fund allocation another half billion dollars, or 23 percent, over current year funding.

What is behind Medicaid's expansion? A decade ago, the state made it easier to qualify for Medicaid by lowering income requirements. With the downturn in the state's economy, Medicaid now covers more than 1.4 million people, or nearly one in every

seven Michigan residents. Medicaid pays for 30 percent of newborn deliveries and 70 percent of nursing home care in Michigan.

As time passes, the Medicaid population ages and requires more care. The development of new technology has led to new, expensive treatments. We can't control aging, and medical advances are generally beneficial. We can, however, control our lifestyles.

Last year the Granholm administration commissioned a study that confirmed what was long suspected: Michigan is unhealthy. We smoke more and are less active than our counterparts in other states. Unhealthy behavior accounts for at least 25 percent of all health care costs.

Private companies that foot the bill for their employees' health care are trying to control costs by encouraging healthy behaviors. Some businesses now offer bonuses to employees who exercise or meet other health goals. Some require smokers to pay more in health care premiums or co-pays. Earlier this year, 12 employees at Okemos-based Weyco Corp. quit smoking to keep their jobs.

Medicaid has no such incentives. Outside of the Medicaid program, the state spends \$30 million a year promoting health through grants to advocacy groups, a Web site, a surgeon general, a chief nurse and other efforts. These efforts, though well intended, are ineffective.

The Legislature is borrowing from a book called "The Price of Government" that advocates justifying expenditures based on results. For the Medicaid program, the governor has suggested the desired result is "making people healthy." Despite billions of dollars, however, Medicaid has not made Michigan healthier. The Medicaid population is even less healthy than the general population. Medicaid fails "The Price of Government" test.

Like private companies, Medicaid needs to adopt incentives for healthy lifestyles. Workers who have quit smoking to keep their jobs in the private sector should not have to pay for the care of Medicaid recipients who have no such incentives.

Encouraging healthy behavior among Medicaid recipients is the best way to fix Michigan's budget and the only way Medicaid will ever "make Michigan healthier."

*Tom George is a Republican state senator from Texas Township and a medical doctor. E-mail letters to [letters@detnews.com](mailto:letters@detnews.com).*

# Bus driver nabbed in Net sex sting

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION Thursday, August 11, 2005

By Paul Janczewski [pjanczewski@flintjournal.com](mailto:pjanczewski@flintjournal.com) • 810.766.6333

GENESEE TWP. - Using a sexually explicit screen name, Richard C. Long allegedly believed the 13-year-old girl he met in a chat room in March was eventually going to meet him for sex. Authorities claim Long even sent the teen Web camera pictures of him exposing himself. But the "teen girl" was actually Michael R. Ondejko, a special agent in state Attorney General Mike Cox's Child & Public Protection Unit.

Now, Long, 46, of Genesee Township, a substitute bus driver for the Davison School District, is lodged in the Genesee County Jail on a \$500,000 cash bond. He faces 10 charges related to child sexually abusive activity and using a computer to send obscene matter to minors.

Two charges carry up to 20 years in prison if convicted, while the remaining eight are 4-year felonies.

Long faces an Aug. 19 pretrial and possible preliminary examination five days later before Central District Judge Larry J. Stecco.

He was arraigned Wednesday by Central District Judge Mark C. McCabe, who set the bond and ordered Long to stay away from computers and children if he gets out of jail.

Long appeared in court wearing a short-sleeve gray shirt, green shorts, sandals and gray socks pulled almost to his knees.

The gray-haired, mustached Long asked for a court-appointed attorney before being led from the court in shackles.

Ondejko said Long is married with an adult child but no criminal history.

Davison hired Long as a substitute bus driver in January, calling him to fill in when permanent hires were sick or unable to work.

School officials said he passed a pre-employment criminal background check and last drove for the district in June.

He was arrested without incident Wednesday morning at his home. Police removed a computer and Web camera from the residence as evidence.

Ondejko said conversations with Long began in March and continued through Aug. 4.

Posing as a 13-year-old girl, Ondejko said Long sought out who he thought was the teen, and the two chatted nearly two dozen times as the "relationship" progressed.

Long allegedly exposed himself at least eight times during the five-month investigation, he said.

## **No-contest plea in sex case**

### **Ex-police officer likely to serve time**

*August 11, 2005*

BY NATE TRELA  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A Detroit police officer will likely spend at least a year behind bars after pleading no contest to a charge stemming from an attempt to set up a sexual rendezvous with an underage girl in Macomb County.

Daniel J. Mathison, 28, of Eastpointe pleaded Wednesday in Macomb County Circuit Court to one count of child sexually abusive activity as part of a deal that will result in four other charges being dismissed.

"He pleaded to the principal charge," Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor Chad Davis said. He added that Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith "has made it clear that he will not accept a plea to anything other than that."

Mathison said little during his court appearance and left without comment.

A no-contest plea is treated the same as a guilty plea for sentencing purposes, but it is not an admission of wrongdoing and cannot be used against a defendant in a civil suit.

Mathison's sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 19, and state guidelines call for him to spend a minimum of 12 months behind bars and to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Davis said he would support a sentence at the lower end of the guidelines.

Depending on the length of the sentence, Mathison could go to either a state prison or the Macomb County Jail.

Police and prosecutors say Mathison initiated a series of Internet chats earlier this year with a person he believed was a 14-year-old girl. He eventually planned a meeting in late March in Harrison Township.

However, the person he chatted with was actually an undercover Macomb County Sheriff's deputy, and Mathison was arrested when he showed up for the rendezvous.

Mathison had been with the Detroit Police Department since 1998. The department suspended him immediately after his arrest, and spokeswoman Sgt. Eren Stevens said Mathison resigned Aug. 3.

Davis, who oversees the Internet crimes unit of the prosecutor's office, estimated that 15 men have been snared through similar tactics in Macomb County this year.

*Contact NATE TRELA at 586-469-8087 or [trela@freepress.com](mailto:trela@freepress.com).*

# Father, son sex scheme?

## Cops probe whether 19-year-old aided dad in sex-for-drugs plan

FENTON

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION Thursday, August 11, 2005

By Sally York syork@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6322

FENTON - A man arrested for giving teenage girls crack cocaine in exchange for sex and posing for pornographic photographs might have gotten help luring the victims from his 19-year-old son, police said.

Mark A. Goff, 47, was arrested Saturday and arraigned Monday on six felony warrants after a routine traffic stop in Brighton. He is in the Genesee County Jail on a \$300,000 cash bond, police said.

Goff's son has not been charged, but police said they are looking into his role.

"We believe his son assisted with (luring the girls)," Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said. "When they would come for the drugs, there were photos taken, and sex occurred."

Acting on an anonymous tip, Fenton police searched Goff and his son's home in Fairfield Apartments on Silver Parkway in late June with the consent of the son, who was named on the lease, Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said.

Many "sexually inappropriate" photos of girls and women were found on Goff's computer, Aro said. Two 17-year-olds were identified from the photos. They are cooperating with police, he said.

Police also found an unregistered handgun and about half an ounce of crack cocaine in a shot glass in the microwave oven, Aro said. Goff was arrested but released the next day pending further investigation.

"We needed to test (the crack cocaine) at a forensic lab and go through the computer," Aro said.

By the time warrants were issued, the Goffs had moved out of the Fenton apartment. Police didn't know where they had gone, Aro said, and Goff was believed to be unemployed.

Fenton police first heard about Goff several months ago. They received a tip that he was trafficking drugs in Georgetown Apartments, where he and his son lived at the time, Aro said.

Goff allowed police to search the apartment, but they found nothing incriminating, Aro said.

Goff, who has no prior criminal record, has been charged with two counts of enticing a child to engage in sexual activity to produce pornography, one count of possession with intent to deliver less than 50 grams of cocaine, two counts of possession of child sexually abusive materials and one count of using a computer to commit a crime.

He faces a possible prison sentence of 20 years or more, Leyton said.

Aro praised the prosecutor's office for "helping us put this case together." He urged citizens to call the police whenever they suspect a crime is being committed.

"This whole thing started on an anonymous tip," he said.

A pretrial hearing is set for Friday. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

# Police: Teacher, student had sex

Thursday, August 11, 2005

JOE SNAPPER  
THE SAGINAW NEWS

KINGSTON -- She met her 16-year-old student for sex in cars and at his summer job during a four-week affair that ended when a family pastor turned her in, police and prosecutors say. Kristen A. Margrif, a 27-year-old English teacher at Kingston High School, faces 15 years in prison on eight counts of sexual contact with the eighth-grader, Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark Reese said.

District Court Magistrate Joe Van Auken on Wednesday arraigned Margrif on seven counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct -- a 15-year felony -- and one misdemeanor fourth-degree count, Reese said.

Teacher and student rendezvoused eight times between June 25 and July 18, including in her car "on the road" and parked behind businesses just outside the village of Kingston, said State Police Sgt. Brian Newcomb of the Caro Post.

They also met for sex at Nana's Attic, a resale shop at M-24 and M-46, where the teen was working this summer, Reese said.

Margrif, who is married and lives in Mayville, is free on a \$45,000 personal recognizance bond, Reese said.

"It is an extraordinarily unusual case, and it is obviously deeply troubling," the prosecutor said. The victim was planning to continue attending school in Kingston. It was not clear whether he was entering eighth or ninth grade this fall, Reese said.

After admitting the affair to her husband, Margrif eventually consulted with a pastor from her family's church in Lapeer County's Mayville Township, Newcomb and Reese said.

CONTINUED

# Police: Teacher, student had sex

Page 2 of 3

The pastor "got wind of it from a relative. He called her in just to counsel her," Newcomb said. But once she disclosed the teen's age, the pastor was bound by state law to report possible knowledge of a crime against a student and called state police in Caro on July 18, said Reese, who issued charges Aug. 2.

"It was enough so that he had to call," Newcomb said, adding that the pastor had talked the situation over with state police before disclosing what he knew.

Had the pastor kept quiet, he could have faced prosecution on criminal misdemeanor charges, Reese said.

"It's a mandatory reporting statute" that Reese said applies to people in positions of authority such as health care workers and religious figures in the know about alleged crimes against minors or students.

Prosecutors are charging Margrif under a state law that makes it illegal for a teacher to have sex with a student younger than 18 who attends the school where the teacher works, even though the legal age of consent is 16.

The same law has cost a former Heritage High School language arts teacher a year behind bars for sex acts with a 17-year-old female student during summer vacation 2004. Kyle Piotrowski, 37, of Bay City pleaded guilty last fall to two 15-year felony counts, though sentencing guidelines called for just one to two years in jail.

By contrast, prosecutors are charging Ricker Middle School band teacher Laura L. Findlay under the state's standard statutory rape law because the alleged victims were younger. A judge has ordered the 31-year-old to stand trial on 22 felony counts of having sex with people younger than 16.

Meanwhile, a Cass City teacher also is facing accusations of sexual contact with a student, but prosecutors have brought no charges.

A four-year employee of the 704-student Kingston Community Schools, Margrif teaches English to students in grades eight and above, Newcomb said. The high school houses grades seven through 12.

# Police: Teacher, student had sex

Page 3 of 3

Superintendent George Bednerek, who learned of the charges Tuesday, said the school district has taken no action against Margrif and will plan on her teaching this fall -- unless she's convicted.

Bednerek said he did not know the student prosecutors say she was meeting.

"Yesterday, I found out about the charges. I'm very surprised. She an excellent staff member -- innocent until proven guilty," he said.

Margrif on Wednesday came voluntarily with her lawyer, M. Allen Robb of Flint, to meet authorities for her arraignment and booking, Newcomb said.

Robb did not return a Saginaw News message left at his office late Wednesday afternoon.

Margrif had previously made statements to authorities relating to the charges, Newcomb and Reese said.

"She went to the pastor, then she came forward and provided information as well," Reese said. Because he initially was contacted by members of her family and not Margrif herself, much of what the pastor told police was second-hand, Reese said.

It remains unclear if he will become a witness. The outcome of a possible trial likely will turn "primarily" on the victim's testimony, Reese said.

The pastor's "information ends up being hearsay but in some ways is potentially admissible," Reese said.

Margrif's next court date is Monday, Aug. 22, Reese said.

Joe Snapper is a staff writer for The Saginaw News. You may reach him at 776-9715.

Letters for August 11

The Grand Rapids Press

Thursday, August 11, 2005

## **Don't blame bus drivers**

The Guest Column by state Rep. Michael Sak on raising the punishment for bus drivers who forget children on the bus misses the point ("Bus drivers accountable for kids they transport," Press, Aug. 6).

Two examples cited in his column concern 3-year-olds left on a bus. When and who decided it was a good idea to put a 3-year old on a bus? Special education or not, a 3-year-old should not be with a group of other children under the care of a single person who also needs to be driving. Often the understandably upset parent-victims will say after the fact that they will just take the kids to school themselves.

What an idea! If that is just impossible, then the law needs to be changed to require an aide on every bus transporting 3-year-olds (or 4-year-olds).

That person would not be responsible for driving the bus but watching over these very small and, let's face it, pretty helpless, kids. There is no preschool classroom to my knowledge with fewer than two adults providing supervision, because this age group requires a lot of supervision!

Why then do we expect a single person to be responsible for these very little ones while they are being transported? Mr. Sak acknowledges that the drivers care about the kids. Putting another threat over their heads is not going to resolve the problem. Get these little kids off the bus or give the bus drivers some help.

TAMMI Van TIL/Grand Rapids

# Boy, 14, pleads no contest in stabbing death of uncle

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Thursday, August 11, 2005

By Paul Janczewski [pjanczewski@flintjournal.com](mailto:pjanczewski@flintjournal.com) • 810.766.6333

A Flint teen who stabbed his uncle to death after an argument pleaded no contest to second-degree murder and faces sentencing as a juvenile.

Douglas B. Winters, 14, faces probation or placement in a youth facility or elsewhere when sentenced Aug. 30 by Genesee Circuit Judge Joseph J. Farah.

Winters was charged in the April 2 slaying of Gregory E. Mitchell, 32.

Witnesses at an earlier hearing said Winters plunged a knife blade 5 inches into Mitchell's chest after the two argued and fought.

Farah will review a pre-sentence report, but if he does not agree to follow the sentence recommendation, Winters will be allowed to withdraw his plea and take the case to trial.

Assistant Genesee County Prosecutor John R. Greene and Winters' attorney, Rande Wright, worked out the deal to sentence the youth as a juvenile.

Prosecutors had the option to seek a blended sentence, which encompasses aspects of both the juvenile and adult guidelines, or to treat Winters as an adult.

The incident occurred shortly after midnight at 222 E. Stewart Ave.

Witnesses said they returned to Winters' residence about midnight after being at a party.

The witnesses said Mitchell and Winters began a verbal argument that escalated when Mitchell walked into a kitchen and began choking the boy.

Police and prosecutors believe the two were arguing over Winters' carousing on the streets and getting into trouble.

Witnesses said they tried to break up the fight, but Mitchell broke free and attacked the teen again, punching him down on a kitchen table.

They said Winters then grabbed a knife and stabbed Mitchell.

Winters fled the area after the incident and was arrested in Chicago after being seen there by a relative who notified police.

He is being held without bond in the Genesee Valley Regional Detention Center.

*Detroit News*  
*August 11, 2005*  
*Livingston Briefs*

**Fowlerville**

## Center to host food drive Aug. 17

A food drive will be held Aug. 17 to benefit the Fowlerville Family Impact Center, 165 S. Fowlerville Road, in conjunction with the 4th Annual Day of Caring sponsored by the Livingston County United Way. People can drop off food for the Christian-based, nonprofit food pantry from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-4 p.m. at Rosati's Market Place on South Grand Avenue in the Village of Fowlerville and at Countryway Market on Mason Road in Iosco Township, as well as during junior football practice from 6-8 p.m. in Fowlerville's Community Park. Call (517) 223-4428 for information.

***Detroit News***  
***August 11, 2005***  
***Oakland Briefs***

**Waterford**

## **Free, reduced lunch rules released**

The Oakland Intermediate School District has published guidelines for free and reduced lunch for the 2005-06 school year. A family of two making less than \$16,679 a year is eligible for free lunch, while a family of eight making less than \$42,107 would be eligible. For reduced lunch, a family of two would have to make less than \$23,736, and a family of eight would have to make less than \$59,922. A full chart is available at the intermediate school district's Web site at [For information, call \(248\) 209-2102.](http://www.oisd.net)

NEWS: Opinion

## Foster parents open hearts, home

*Wednesday, August 10, 2005 3:46 PM EDT*

Jamie and Pam Clark are one Petoskey couple making a difference in the lives of local children.

They are foster parents, a service to kids we don't hear enough about, but which for many youngsters makes a difference in how their lives will turn out and what kinds of adults they will become.

The Clarks, married nearly nine years, offer a perfect example of selflessness. After finding themselves unable to have children of their own, they contacted Child and Family Services and learned about the foster care system.

Last fall, the Clarks were licensed as a pre-adoptive foster care family. And the 35-year-olds have never looked back from their decision; they've taken in three children since getting started.

We'd encourage more families and couples to look into the foster-care system.

To become foster parents, a couple or individual needs to participate in foster parent courses offered through Child and Family Services. These courses work to prepare the couple for the challenges of being foster parents, along with simple parenting techniques.

After successfully completing the requirements, the foster parents await the call that there's a child in need. Then, they open their homes and their hearts to a child in need.

Recently, Child and Family Services launched its 16th annual Brown Bag Campaign to raise funds for the foster care network in Northern Michigan.

While the pre-addressed "brown bags" have already been inserted into the Petoskey News-Review for convenient return, those interested can still donate to this worthy cause.

There is a real need in this region to support such child-centered services. Child and Family Services reports that it averages about 190 children a day going into out-of-home care. Those children, ranging in age from newborn to 18 years old, are in need of stable, affectionate and firm parenting - not to mention clothing, school supplies, transportation and the funds to participate in such things as music or dance lessons.

So far, in its 15 years the campaign has raised more than \$115,000.

For more information on the campaign or on how to become a licensed foster parent, please call Child and Family Services at (231) 946-8975.

# Women's shelter pantry nearly bare of necessities

Thursday, August 11, 2005

By Morgan Jarema  
The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- Wanda Merriweather remembers the young woman who walked into the YWCA's Domestic Crisis Shelter in the middle of the afternoon about a month ago.

The woman had fled a violent situation at home, her three children in tow.

And she left so abruptly she was not wearing shoes. Her children did not have socks. And forget about toiletries -- no toothbrushes, no shampoo, no deodorant.

"She just grabbed her kids and out she went," said Merriweather, a family advocate at the Grand Rapids crisis center the past five years. "She had nothing, and she was due in court the next morning to file a personal protection order."

Luckily, the shelter had donated items on hand for the woman and her children. But lately, the closet where donated items are stored for the emergency shelter's clients and children has been nearly bare.

"They're starting to see cobwebs on some shelves," said Kelli Langan, the YWCA's director of development and marketing.

The agency is asking the community to pitch in with donations of personal-care items.

Officials at Kent County's largest domestic violence shelter say they continually operate at capacity working to help keep the area's most vulnerable families safe.

Last year, the Grand Rapids shelter served about 500 women and their children, and helped find another 500 women other places to stay. This year, Langan said, the numbers look about the same.

She speculated the reason for the lack of donated items boils down to economics.

"Women and their families are staying longer," Langan said. "You can't really be independent and safe if you don't have a way of supporting yourself and your family."

Being provided with basic personal-care items "makes life comfortable," Langan said. "We're doing our best to provide comfort to these families during an extraordinarily stressful situation." Donations can be dropped at the YWCA main building in downtown Grand Rapids.

# **Organizations join forces to support children**

Wednesday, August 10, 2005 3:24 PM EDT

Adrian Daily Telegram

## **Action for Children & Teens and Communities in Schools of Lenawee County have merged.**

From staff reports

ADRIAN - Two organizations that support Lenawee County children have joined forces.

Action for Children & Teens and Communities in Schools of Lenawee County have merged and will retain the CIS name. Board members of the two organizations cited the organizations' common goals and a desire to not compete for financial support as reasons to join.

"Because our efforts to help children and teens were similar, it was counterproductive to compete for the same community dollars," Dave Maxwell, chairman of ACT, said in a news release. "Additionally, we believed that the work of both organizations could be strengthened by combining both human and financial resources."

"Why should two groups, which work so hard to help Lenawee kids, threaten each other's viability?" Jed Engle, president of the CIS board of directors, said. "Community resources are too scarce for both groups to operate at their most effective levels."

Christine MacNaughton was hired as the executive director of the new organization. She had been the part-time executive director of CIS.

"Funding sources do not want redundancy, and they want all Lenawee communities to be served," MacNaughton said in the release. "The CIS process in local school districts includes needs assessment, then intentionally building the 40 assets while addressing the identified needs. The strength of joining together is that more community members have become interested in impacting Lenawee youth."

Discussions about a merger started early this year, the release said. The two organizations' mission statements were compared and a new vision was developed to create a community where children feel valued and are successful.

ACT was formed after a survey of more than 2,000 local students revealed that Lenawee County children scored below the national average in 31 of 40 developmental assets, including family support, a caring school climate, how the community values children and adult role models.

CIS was created to provide support for all students, especially those at risk, to be successful through five basics: a healthy start, a safe place, a marketable skill, a chance to give back to the community and a personal relationship with a caring adult.

The CIS name was retained because of longer-term name recognition and opportunities for resources from state and national CIS offices, the release said. CIS is able to place volunteers from the AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America program.

The Tecumseh Area Communities in Schools will remain independent of the countywide CIS, but the two will continue to collaborate, and the Tecumseh CIS will promote the 40 developmental assets.

August 11, 2005

# Tourism brings jobs; rate still above average

By BILL O'BRIEN

Record-Eagle business editor

The summer tourist season has pushed some area counties into the top 10 lowest unemployment rates for June in Michigan. Area counties are in bold print:

1. Mackinac County 3.8%
- 2. Leelanau 4.0%**
3. Washtenaw 4.4%
- 4. Cheboygan 4.7%**
5. Cass 4.7%
6. Isabella 4.8%
- 7. Grand Traverse 5.0%**
8. Menominee 5.1%
9. Ottawa 5.2%
10. Dickinson 5.3%

TRAVERSE CITY - Area unemployment rates improved significantly in June as the summer tourism season hit full stride.

The jobless rate for the 10-county northwest Michigan area dropped to 5.8 percent in June. That's down from 6.9 percent in May and 6.9 percent in June of last year, according to the state Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

The northeast lower Michigan region, which includes Crawford, Otsego and Cheboygan counties, had the largest drop in June jobless figures among the state's 17 major labor markets. The unemployment rate in that area fell to 6.8 percent, down from 7.9 percent in May and from 8.1 percent in June of last year.

The statewide jobless rate was 6.9 percent in June, about the same rate as in May but still second-highest in the country. Fifteen of the 17 state labor markets reported lower unemployment rates. The Detroit area increased 0.5 percent to 7.7 percent because of auto industry layoffs, and the Lansing area was unchanged at 6.3 percent.

The national unemployment rate in June was 5 percent.

Jobs gains in professional and health services led to the reduction although there were fewer young people seeking summer jobs, said Richard Waclawek who heads the department's bureau of labor market information.

Employment opportunities in education and health services continued an upward trend, picking up an estimated 6,000 jobs since May and up around 10,000 from one year ago. Other industry sectors showing growth over the past year are leisure and hospitality services and trade, transportation and utilities.

Job losses over the past year have been recorded in the manufacturing, construction and business and professional services fields, state officials said.

Thursday, August 11, 2005  
Letters  
The Detroit News

## Do higher wage mandates help Michigan?

### Raise wage to help poor

How is it that in the "land of opportunity," people who work hard all day, every day, are living in poverty? Anyone who can look a 70-year-old woman like Jean Boudrie, who was profiled in the July 31 article, "Minimum wage divides workers, bosses, politicians," in the eye and tell her she doesn't deserve to earn \$7.15 an hour should be ashamed. Anyone who argues against raising the minimum wage should try and live on it themselves. It's long past time to raise the minimum wage in Michigan.

Christy McGillivray  
Mount Clemens

Minimum wage differences  
States that have a different  
minimum wage rate from the  
federal government's \$5.15  
an hour:

Higher minimum  
Washington state... \$7.35

Oregon... \$7.25

Alaska... \$7.15

Connecticut... \$7.10

Vermont... \$7.00

California... \$6.75

Rhode Island... \$6.75

Massachusetts... \$6.75

Illinois... \$6.50

Maine... \$6.35

Florida... \$6.15

Delaware... \$6.15

New York... \$6.00

Wisconsin... \$5.70

Lower minimum

Kansas... \$2.65

Ohio... \$4.65

Source: U.S. Department of  
Labor

[javascript:comments\(letterad](#)  
[ress\)Comment on this story](#)

[javascript:shareit\(\)Send this](#)  
[story to a friend](#)

[https://secure.detroitnewsap](https://secure.detroitnewsapers.com/circ/cgi-bin/delivery.plx?selectedpaper=detnews)  
[ers.com/circ/cgi-](https://secure.detroitnewsapers.com/circ/cgi-bin/delivery.plx?selectedpaper=detnews)  
[bin/delivery.plx?selectedpap](https://secure.detroitnewsapers.com/circ/cgi-bin/delivery.plx?selectedpaper=detnews)  
[er=detnews](https://secure.detroitnewsapers.com/circ/cgi-bin/delivery.plx?selectedpaper=detnews)Get Home  
Delivery

# **St. Vinny's expansion in Escanaba nearly done**

August 10, 2005

Jenny Lancour - [jlancour@dailypress.net](mailto:jlancour@dailypress.net)

ESCANABA - Organizers of St. Vincent de Paul Society's expansion are anxious to show off the brand new spacious facility built to improve services for the area's needy.

St. Vincent de Paul, also known as "St. Vinny's," will be hosting an open house from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday. Residents will be able to tour the recently-constructed 7,400-square-foot addition. Federal, state and local representatives also have been invited.

The expansion at 815 1st Ave. N., Escanaba, includes a new warehouse, soup kitchen, food pantry, client conference rooms and two temporary living quarters. A new recycling center will serve as a central location for all seven chapters of St. Vincent de Paul.